



DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY

# THUCKALAY TIDINGS

MAY 2024 | VOL. 4 | ISSUE 5

## TOTUS TUUS MARIA

“TOTALLY YOURS MARY”





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## THUCKALAY TIDINGS

May 2024 | Vol. 4 | Issue 5

A Monthly online newsletter of Diocese of Thuckalay

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**BISHOP'S HOUSE**  
**P. B. No. 12, Thuckalay P.O.**  
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# Message

Dear Friends and Benefactors,  
Greetings and prayerful wishes Bishop's House, Thuckalay!

We are observing the favourite month for many Catholics. It is the month of MAY when the Church honours the Blessed Virgin Mary with special solemnity. In this month the devotions towards our Blessed Mother, like the Holy Rosary, the Brown Scapular, the Miraculous Medal, and the various feast days commemorating her Immaculate Conception, Nativity, Annunciation, and Assumption, have always occupied a privileged position in our Catholic spirituality and ought to remain so. In our complicated times, we should have an even greater need for the aid of the all-holy Virgin, who at Fatima called the world to repentance, conversion, and fervent prayer. In this issue of TIDINGS, I would like to present the devotion to OUR LADY, THE UNDOER OF KNOTS.

The devotion of Mary, Undoer of Knots, begins in Germany in 1615. A young couple, Wolfgang Langenmantel and Sophie, married only for three years, were having serious marital problems and were seriously considering getting divorced. However, before making a decision, they decided to visit an Austrian Jesuit priest, Jakob Rem, for guidance and prayer. They had several sittings with the priest. During their last meeting on 28 September 1615, they gave Father Rem their wedding ribbon. Wolfgang and Sophie tied each other together with this ribbon during their wedding ceremony as a symbol of their unity. The ribbon had many knots. Every time they quarrelled, Sophie would make a knot in the ribbon.

Father Jakob, who had a great devotion to Mary, prayed for the couple in front of the painting of Our Lady of Snow while holding the ribbon in his hands. He begged Mary to undo the knots, meaning the marriage difficulties of the couple. All of a sudden, he witnessed a miracle. The knots on their own became undone miraculously, one after the other until the ribbon was completely smooth. The couple was reconciled and lived a happy marriage until the end of their days. In 1700, Father Jerome Ambroise von Langenmantel, grandson of the couple, ordered a painting to be done in memory of the miracle and to reinforce the devotion to the Virgin Mary. The painting shows Mary undoing knots, with two angels holding the ribbon. He named it "Mary, Undoer of Knots." Up until the twentieth century, the devotion to Mary, Undoer of Knots, existed only in Germany. But in the eighties, when the future Pope Francis was finishing his thesis for his doctorate in Augsburg, near Munich, he was profoundly moved by the painting. The picture made an impression on him, who noted that Father Langenmantel based his actions on a quote from St Irenaeus: "The knot of Eve's disobedience was untied by Mary's obedience: what the virgin Eve bound through her disbelief, Mary loosened by her faith."

The Pope said he liked the image so much that he started sending postcards of it, too. Replicas of the image were painted in the

pope's home country, Argentina, and devotion there spread. Once Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio was elected pope in 2013, devotion to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots spread throughout the world.

Pope Francis has talked about this devotion throughout his pontificate, even praying specifically to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots in 2021 during the coronavirus pandemic. The heart of the devotion involves meditating on the Virgin Mary's compassion and power as the "Undoer of Knots" while seeking her intercession to undo or resolve various complicated knots or issues in one's life, especially in relationships, marriages, families, and emotional and spiritual struggles.

Some of the common practices include:

- Praying novenas and rosaries to Our Lady of the Knots, asking her to untie specific knots in one's life
- Lighting candles before the image and affixing written knots/petitions to the image or a cord displayed nearby
- Reciting the ancient Marian prayer "The Undoer of Knots" as an individual or family. The prayer goes thus: "Through your grace, your intercession, and your example, deliver us from all evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God, so that we, free from sin and error, may find Him in all things, may have our hearts placed in Him, and may serve Him always in our brothers and sisters. Amen."
- Receiving sacramental blessings with devotional cords blessed by priests

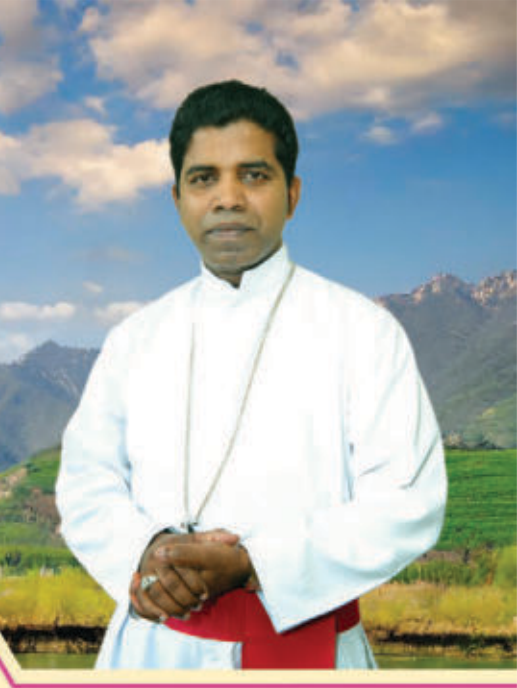
Through this devotion, the faithful appeal to Mary's unfailing care and intercession as the compassionate spiritual mother who urgently seeks to undo the knots of sin, conflict, spiritual bondage, and human brokenness in our lives. Our Lady of the Knots brings healing, peace, and resolution when all seems tangled and hopeless. Although the feast of Our Lady of the Knots is celebrated on 28 September, the month of May is an excellent opportunity to spread this devotion and strengthen the quality of our families.

Entrusting you and your families to the loving mantle of Our Lady,

Yours in Christ Jesus,



+ **George Rajendran sdb**  
**Bishop of Thuckalay**

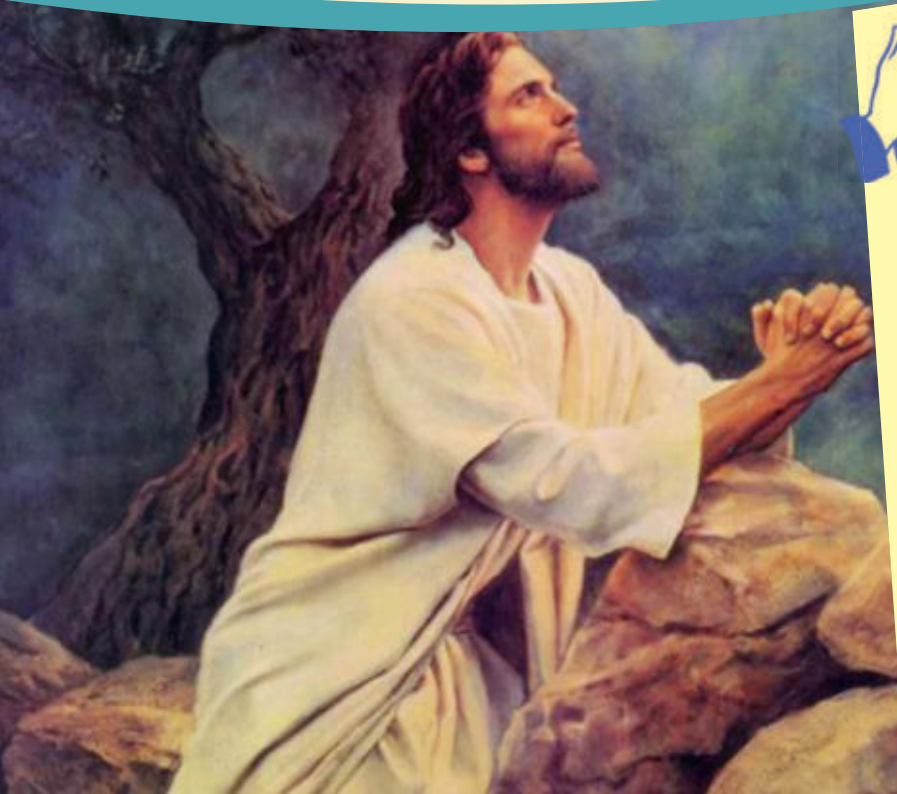




# In and through the Path of the Patron Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB

On April 24th, 2024, the Feast Day celebration held at Aseer Auditorium, Kalluvilai, which honored St. George, patron of Bishop Mar George Rajendran SDB, but also the second patron of the Eparchy. Rev. Fr. Sajan Nettapongu and his team for organizing a prayer session at 11:15 am before the public meeting. The celebration was filled with immense joy by the presence and felicitation of Rt. Rev. Bishop Peter Remigius, and the attendance of Rt. Rev. Bishop Albert George Anastas, Bishop of Kuzhithurai. They appreciated the representatives of the Fathers, Sisters, and laity who offered their felicitations and prayers on this special occasion.


Various entertainment program presented by students and the songs performed by Rev. Sisters to be exceptionally well-prepared, contributing to the joyous atmosphere. Bishop Mar George Rajendran expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all for their kind wishes and prayers. He recognized that the driving force behind this grand celebration was none other than the Vicar General, Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil. Bishop extended his thanks to him and all who collaborated with him to make the event a memorable one.



## NEED PRAYER SUPPORT!

The Diocese has prayer groups.

Please write the following and send SMS


 +91 94871 65903:

Name: .....

Place: .....

Intentions: .....

In detail you wish to express,

 : [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)

## Harvest of Hearts : Seminarians building together

This year's work camp for major seminarians took place at Pulari Matriculation School in Pudur, Tenkasi mission, from April 14th to April 25th, 2024. Thirteen brothers, including 2 deacons, arrived on the evening of Saturday, the 13th, and commenced their ministry the following Sunday morning. During their stay, the brothers participated in a three-day retreat conducted by Fr. Daniel Poovannathil. Unlike previous years, the focus this year shifted from physical labour to intellectual work. The primary ministry of the brothers was providing English classes for the students and children of the school and surrounding villages, with additional training sessions offered to the teachers. The brothers organized the students into different age groups and led engaging classes, providing a unique opportunity to spread the Gospel through both words and actions to approximately 80 students. The work camp concluded on April 25th with a meeting of the major seminarians, attended by curia members and myself. During the meeting, the brothers shared their experiences, and the curia members expressed appreciation for their hard work. Overall, the work camp proved to be a fruitful experience for the school, students, and the participating brothers.



**You can support the missionary activities by sponsoring a Seminarian in his formation:**

Please write / mail to us for any enquiry / details. We shall contact you with all further details soliciting your generous support:

**Postal Address:**  
Bishop's House, P.B. 12, Thuckalay,  
Kanyakumari District,  
Tamilnadu – 629 175, INDIA

**Contact Mission Procure:**  
Fr. Liju Marattukalam  
+91 4651 250633; +91 94871 65903;  
Email: [bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com](mailto:bishopofthuckalay@gmail.com)





## Pillars of progress: Vatican II Constitutions seminar

In preparation for the celebration of the Christ Jubilee year 2025, in accordance with the intention of the Holy Father, a two-day seminar on the four constitutions of the Second Vatican Council was held on April 12th and 13th, 2024, from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. The first day took place at Sangamam, and the second day at Padanthalumoodu. Participants included priests, religious, representatives of the laity, including students from Sinai Theological Institute, department leaders, members of pious associations, and other nominated lay faithful, who attended either of the aforementioned days

of the seminar. The resource person for the two-day seminar was Rev. Dr. Santiyago Raja, Professor of St. Paul's Seminary in Tiruchirappally. Following the inauguration ceremony, presided over by myself, three sessions were conducted—two in the morning and one in the afternoon—to elucidate the four constitutions: *Lumen Gentium*, *Dei Verbum*, *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, and *Gaudium et Spes*. The seminar proved to be fruitful in deepening understanding of these documents, benefiting almost 200 participants.







## Blessings Abound: Kazhuvanthittai Presbytery blessing

On April 9, 2024, at 5:30 pm, a new Presbytery was blessed at Kazhuvanthittai. Bishop Mar George Rajendran blessed the Presbytery and celebrated Holy Qurbana. Many Fathers and the entire parishioners were present for this significant event. The occasion was concluded with an agape meal, fostering fellowship and joy among all present.







## “Calling the Called”: Vocation camp for Aspiring souls

The Vocation Commission of the Eparchy successfully organized three vocation camps of which two at St. Mary’s Minor Seminary in Mukkoottukal and one at St. Joseph’s Forane Church, Soosaipuram this year. All camps were held on the theme: Listen to the voice of God. The first camp took place from April 16 to 18, 2024 and was specifically tailored for students in classes X, XII, and those who had completed their degree. The camp welcomed 14 boys from the Eparchy, all eager to discern their vocation. The camp was inaugurated by Fr. Isaac Punnoor CMI, Rector of Minor Seminary and skilfully animated by major seminarians. Our Fathers also played an integral role in delivering enlightening sessions. On the final day, Bishop Mar George Rajendran celebrated Holy Qurbana and had individual

interviews with each candidate, providing them with guidance and support as they discerned their vocational paths. The second camp, held on April 19, catered to students in classes VIII, IX, and XI. It served as a life orientation and vocation motivational camp, empowering participants to explore their personal calling and life goals. Twenty-five students enthusiastically attended this camp, gaining valuable insights and inspiration for their future. Fr. Mijo Puthenpurayil along with Dn. Sunil Antony animated the sessions. The Third camp held for girls was conducted at St. Joseph’s Forane Church campus, Soosaipuram. 24 girls participated in the camp. Fr. Sajan Nettapongu and Fr. Shijo Aikarakkunnel animated the sessions.



## Dynamic Duo

### Mr. Mariadhas and Mr. Edwinson's Passion for Mission



The Syro-Malabar Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants (CEPCM) received a request from the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conference (FABC) to send two religious or lay missionary representatives from the Syro-Malabar Church to attend a three-day gathering of full-time missionaries in Bangkok, Thailand, from April 19-21, 2024. This gathering aimed to recognize, honour, and celebrate their contributions and share best practices in evangelization. The Commission for Evangelization solicited a list of potential candidates from all the eparchies in India who could participate in this International Conference of missionaries and share their missionary life experiences, as well as new missionary methods adopted in their missions. From this list, Mr. Mariadhas was selected to attend the conference. Along with another priest, he represented the

Syro-Malabar Church at the missionary meeting of FABC in Bangkok. He departed on April 17, 2024, and returned on April 22, 2024. During the meeting, Mr. Mariadhas shared his mission experiences, and his contributions were greatly appreciated by all in attendance. We extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his efforts in participating in the conference, traveling alone, and for his dedication to motivating the new generation to actively engage in evangelization.

Mr. Edwinson has been honoured with the Missionary Award at the Great Gathering of Mission (GGM) introduced by Fiat Mission on 13 April 2024. This award recognizes his invaluable contributions to the realization of the Kingdom of God. The diocese extends its heartfelt congratulations to him and wishes God's continuous blessings on his missionary efforts



## Unifying Vision: The Collaborative Spirit of the Tenkasi Mission Meet

The Tenkasi mission meet for the month of April took place at Pudur on April 25, 2024. The event commenced at 10:00 am with a concelebrated Holy Qurbana, which Bishop Mar George Rajendran presided over. Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil, Rev. Fr. Thomas Pottempampil, Rev. Fr. Joshy Kulathumkal, and Fr. Antony Mahesh joined in concelebration. Sisters and Major Seminarians also attended the Holy Qurbana. Following the Holy Qurbana, a meeting was held for Fathers and Sisters engaged in various mission activities across Tenkasi. Rev. Bishop presided over this meeting, during which Fathers shared updates on the activities of different departments within the mission. The Curia members offered encouragement for collective efforts towards advancing the Kingdom of God. In His presidential address, He emphasized the importance of coordinating retreats and other common activities, as well as supporting each other in addressing the challenges faced by specific mission areas. During the second session of the meeting, Major Seminary brothers joined us to celebrate my Feast Day and extend their wishes. The programme concluded with an agape meal.







## Training for Transformation: VPV Sessions at Kalluvilai

On April 27th, 2024, a VPV training course for catechism teachers was held at the Aseer Auditorium in Kalluvilai. The training programme commenced with an inaugural session led by Fr. Aby Poovathummoottil. Following the inauguration, the teachers were divided into four groups, and classes were conducted to provide effective tips for conducting VPV sessions. Mr. Edwinson, Mr. Vijayarajan, Mr. Shonic Reegan, and Mrs. Jeyarani facilitated these sessions. In the afternoon, the training programme was guided by major seminarians. Over 120 teachers participated in the programme, which concluded by 4:00 pm.







## Faith in Festivity: VPV Revitalizes the Spirit

As our students are enjoying their summer vacation, with the help of the Catechetical Department of our Eparchy, the VPV (Visuvasa Paiyrchi Vizha) classes have begun in all our parishes. We need to encourage our children to attend the classes so that they can learn much about our Catholic Faith during these days of intensive catechesis. Let's make use of this golden opportunity and give Jesus to our children. Our young candidates for the priesthood, who are now on holiday from their respective seminaries, are in various parishes our diocese helping the fathers to organise VPV classes. Let's continue to pray and promote priestly and religious vocations.





## **A Home of Hope: SDS congregation's Hostel Blessing in Padanthalumoodu**



On April 22, 2024, at 5:30 pm, Bishop Mar George Rajendran blessed the newly constructed Chapel and Hostel building adjacent to the existing Alphonsa Mary Gnanodaya Working Women's Hostel of the Sisters of Divine Savior (SDS) at Padanthalumoodu. Following the blessing ceremony, He celebrated the Holy Qurbana, which was concelebrated by Rev. Fr. Thomas Powathuparampil and Rev. Fr. Thomas Sathianesan. The event concluded with an agape meal, fostering fellowship and joy.







## A Tribute to Dedication: Celebrating Sr. Vijaya FCC's Retirement

Retirement celebration to honour Sr. Mariyam Thomas (Vijaya) FCC was held at St. Mathew's Middle School, Annikkarai on 16 April 2024 in recognition of her 22 years dedicated service as headmistress. The whole Diocese express the gratitude to Sr. Vijaya FCC for her invaluable services.





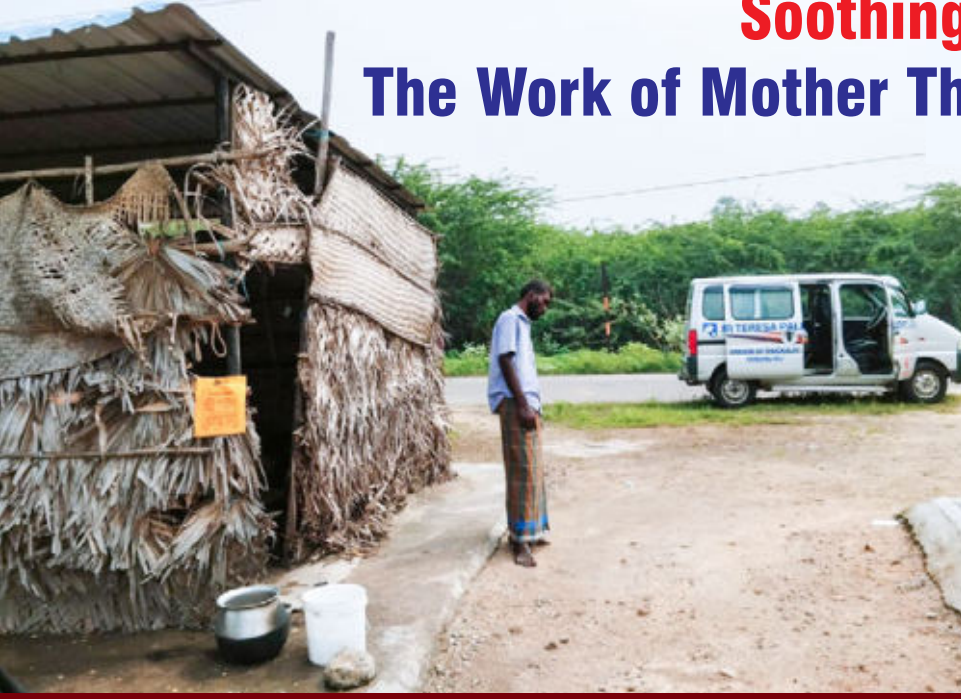
## Orientation Odyssey: The Start of SMYM Camp Adventures

In view of the camp to be held in the month of June, 2024, from 7 to 9, forane level orientation programmes were conducted. The camp will have the aim of imparting Christian leadership qualities to today's youth. The objectives will include directing life to God, vocational and career discernments, awareness on job market, responding the challenges emerging from the current society positively and helping the other youth. The forane gatherings were conducted on April 7, 2024 at Nithiravilai, April 14 at Manjalumoodu, April 21 at Pilankalai and April 28 at Karode. The gathering started at 2 pm with animation, led by the trained central team. Then respective forane vicars addressed the group and motivated them to act together for the cause of Christ and His Church. The diocesan director Fr. Joseph Santhosh, guided the youth to listen to the voice of Christ which is inside of every person and to set the life in accordance to His voice. He touched on socio-political, economic, psychological problems faced by generation and trained them to have a personal relationship with God. The meetings got over by 4.30 pm with the final blessing.





# Soothing Souls: The Work of Mother Theresa Palliative Care



Theresa Palliative Care, Thirunelveli, currently extends its care to 70 families across 60 different villages. We assess the patients by checking their pulse, respiration, blood pressure, and sugar levels, among other metrics. According to the needs of the patients, we provide the necessary medical aids and care for the patients.







## **A Day of Spiritual Reflection: Celebrating Vocation Sunday**

Vocation Sunday is an annual celebration that invites the faithful to reflect on the calling to religious life. This special day, dedicated to fostering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, encourages both prayers and support from the Christian community. Following the Mass, the faithful participated in a series of activities designed to deepen their understanding of religious vocations. Key highlights included. Special prayer sessions were conducted, focusing on praying for those discerning their vocation and for an increase in vocations in the diocese.

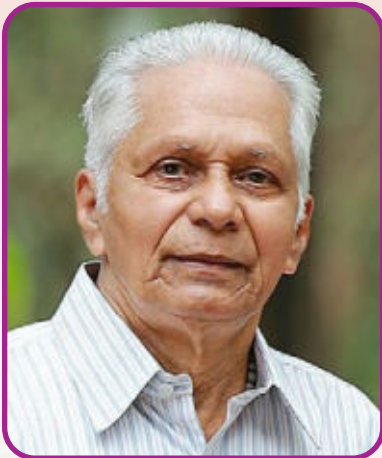
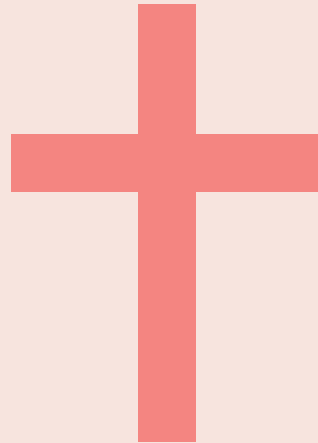


## Celebrating the Journey

# A Life Well-Lived



**Joseph Parappalil** – father of Sr. Elseena SH



**Paulose Mecheril**  
Maternal Uncle of Fr. Geo Choozhikunnel





**Thuckalay**  
MISSION  
DIOCESE OF THUCKALAY



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